

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 18 May 1998
Name of applicant/court: Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
Title of Publication: Hamilton's Movie Bilitis
Other Known Titles: Not Stated
Director: Not Applicable
Producer: Not Applicable
Publisher: Cameragraphic Press Ltd
Author: David Hamilton
Format: Book
Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable	Running time:
Trailers:		Running time:
		Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

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Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *Hamilton's Movie Bilitis* is classified as:
Unrestricted.

The book contains an artistic and documentary collection of photographs by the well known British photographer David Hamilton. Due to the sexualised nude content in the book and the youthfulness of the subjects, the publication raises the question as to whether it promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, the exploitation of children, or young persons, or both, for sexual purposes; or whether the publication exploits the nudity of children or young persons, or both.

The Classification Office considers that erotic or sexual elements within the book are balanced by its alternative subjects. Furthermore, the photographer's explanation of his work as an exploration of adolescent sexual awakening provides an acceptable justification for the sexualised nudity in the photographs. The book has significant artistic merit as well as some historical and social interest in its representation of a past cultural era. The dated nature of the material lessens the impact of the book upon the reader.

The Classification Office sought the opinion of experts under s21(1) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the FVPC Act) regarding this publication. These opinions have been taken into account in the classification decision.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the NZBR Act) has also been considered in relation to this publication. As there is no specific proscription under the FVPC Act to this particular publication by reason of the nature of its contents, s14 of the NZBR Act applies.

OFLC Ref: 9700530